

Sinclair Broadcasting's requirement that their stations to televise the anti-Kerry documentary just a week or two before the election is an unacceptable practice that is detrimental to the public good. I am surprised that the FCC does not see this as a clear demonstration of the dangers of media consolidation.

The public airwaves belong to the public, not Sinclair or any other broadcasting entity. They use these airwaves free of charge and are obligated by law to serve the public interest. This move by Sinclair is clearly a form of political influence. To allow this kind of shameful behavior, no matter what Sinclair calls it, is absolutely contrary to what is required to ensure a healthy, fair, and free democracy. Our Founding Fathers would surely be distressed and profoundly saddened by this perversion of their dream and work in establishing this democracy.

Sinclair's actions demonstrate the unequivocal need to strengthen and monitor media ownership rules and behavior. Corporate political preference should never take precedence over the public's right to fair and reasonable use of the public's own airwaves.

Please understand that I am not suggesting any form of censorship in this case or any other. I am, however, demanding that there be fundamental fairness and honesty about what Sinclair's action represents. No broadcasting company should be able to leverage its privilege to use our airwaves to promote or denigrate a political candidate in this democratic society. Thank you.